

## **ANTELOPE VALLEY RCD**

### **2008 WMA Base Funding Work Plan**

#### **Member of Los Angeles County WMA**

#### **Invasive Species Control, Eradication, and Outreach**

***January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009***

#### **Contract Lead Group (County, RCD, or Other) and contact information:**

Group: Antelope Valley RCD, Contact: Kathleen Burr, Title: President, Phone: 661-945-2604, Email: avrcd@carcd.org, Mailing Address: 44811 North Date Avenue, Suite G, Lancaster, CA 93534.

#### **Project Manager (contact for reporting and invoicing) and contact information:**

Name: Danette Gordon

Title: Interim District Business Manager. Phone: (661) 945-2604. Email address: avrcd@carcd.org, Mailing Address: 44811 North Date Avenue, Suite G, Lancaster, CA 93534.

**WMA Group affiliation:** Los Angeles County WMA

**Please Confirm, All projects described in this work plan will be in one contract with (if more than one contract is desired, please describe here):** Confirmed, 1 contract with AVRCD for Los Angeles County WMA (individual projects will be subcontracted through the AVRCD).

#### **Project Objectives:**

In this year's funding we will accomplish multiple objectives. First, we will complete two clearly defined weed control projects within the county. One weed control project focuses on preventing the spread of yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) in the northernmost portion of the county by controlling a four-acre infestation on private land. This is one of the only known infestations in this portion of the county. It occupies a seasonally managed wetland in proximity to other wetlands, intermittent washes, roadsides, and other seasonally moist areas. If it is not controlled it will contribute significantly to YST spread in this portion of the county and the state. In addition to this project, we are also reserving some of our funds to respond to pressing weed control needs throughout the coming year. We have defined criteria for selecting high priority projects in the coming year and we anticipate potentially funding post-fire weed control, YST spread, and projects encouraging new WMA participants and/or including significant matching funds or in-kind services.

Our final project goal is to facilitate coordination in weed work throughout the county by performing a number of education and outreach activities including a speakers bureau, WMA outreach publications, website content, and fulfilling technical assistance requests.

#### **Project One: Yellow Starthistle Control at the Leading Edge:**

Leads: Jae Lee, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Lancaster Field Office

### *Antelope Valley Yellow Starthistle Eradication Project.*

This project is to initiate eradication efforts for an incipient population of yellow starthistle (YST) located in the Mojave Desert, where YST infestations are not widespread as occurs in milder Mediterranean climates.

This leading edge population is located in the Antelope Valley approximately one-mile southwest of State Highway 14 at Avenue A (i.e. just inside the County Line) on private property. The infestation is in and around a seasonally flooded wetland managed for wildlife and hunting. It is believed that the spread of this population is limited by its proximity and access to moist areas – e.g. drainages, floodplains, road sides, intermittent waterways, etc. However, these types of areas are few and far between, and, by their nature and dearth, are critically important habitats highly susceptible and sensitive to invasive species perturbations. Its proximity to Armargosa Creek, a locally important riparian system that drains into Rosamond and Rodgers Lakes, makes the creek particularly at risk. Seed dispersal mechanisms are compounded by human, animal, and vehicular factors.

The effected area is approximately 8.3 acres but the treatment area for this YST population is approximately 4-acres. If untreated, upwards of 75 acres of seasonal wetlands could be immediately impacted. The treatment entails: 1) one early season application of clopyralid or aminopyralid at rosette stage; 2) one mid-season mowing of bolted survivors at 1% - 2% flowering; and, 3) spot treatment for late season surviving individuals. The estimated cost for chemical treatment is \$1500 (i.e. labor at \$1200, chemicals at \$200, supplies \$100). The estimated mechanical and hand treatment (i.e. labor and machinery \$800, supplies \$200). The total estimated project cost is \$2,500.

### **Project Two: Treatment of High Priority Invasive Species Infestations Throughout Los Angeles County:**

Leads: WMA participants

Anticipated Budget \$6258 (funds remaining after YST, Descanso, and outreach projects are funded)

Many of our most pressing weed control problems are difficult to anticipate. Invasive species resurgence after fires, yellow starthistle abundance following moderate winter rains, and new satellite infestations of currently limited species like carnation daisy are just three examples of invasive species issues that arise in a given year that are difficult to anticipate. Given the fluid nature of our climate and fire regime and the frequent introduction of new species, we would like to reserve a portion of our funding to treat high priority invasive species infestations as they arise. Rather than specify what these projects are a priori, we will lay out evaluation criteria that will be utilized by the WMA or a funding subcommittee of the WMA to evaluate potential projects as they come up and allocate funding as necessary.

We will have four quarterly deadlines for submission of potential projects and will continue to evaluate projects and assign funds until all available funds are expended. None of the project criteria are absolute prerequisites for funding. These criteria are simply guidelines to be used in evaluating and comparing multiple projects. The criteria for evaluating potential projects is as follows:

- Target species is of statewide or regional importance (on Cal-IPC list or Los Angeles County WMA list)
- Potential to eradicate species from county or region of the county
- Potential to limit spread into new areas of the county
- Matching funds or in-kind services available

- Volunteer involvement
- Post-fire rehabilitation
- Seasonal species (wet year or dry year weeds), seasonal window of opportunity for treatment
- Effective rapid response
- Preparedness of proposing party to undertake project (environmental compliance completed, necessary maps in hand, etc.)
- Potential to involve new participants or new audiences
- Outreach or education benefit
- Prior involvement of project sponsor or affiliate in WMA activities
- Surveillance and maintenance of invasive weed control projects for which original funding has expired

### **Project Three: Education and Outreach**

Lead: Sabrina Drill, University of California Cooperative Extension. Jason Cassanova, Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council

Project Title: Outreach and Education about Invasive Plants, Fire-safe Landscaping, and the Weed Management Area

#### **Description:**

The Los Angeles County Weed Management Area, through our member agencies the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, University of California Cooperative Extension, and the California Invasive Plant Council Student Chapter at UC Riverside, will extend information about invasive plants in general, and in home landscapes throughout the county, including in the fire-prone wildland urban interface areas, through phone consultations, presentations to gardening clubs, homeowners associations, and fire-safe councils, and through our web site.

#### **Project Goals:**

1. Review and provide feedback on fire-safe landscaping guides to make sure they do NOT promote the use of invasive plants. Building on our successful Sustainable and Fire-Safe Landscapes Project, UC Cooperative Extension will continue to give presentations, answer phone inquiries, and review and work with authors of landscaping guidelines about fire-safe landscaping without invasive plants.
2. Involve students to give presentations to the general public about invasive plants. Cal-IPC Student Chapter will give presentations about invasive plants and their control at garden expos, HOA meetings, and other appropriate venues, and will help support the establishment of student chapters at other institutions of higher education in the Los Angeles Area.
3. Provide information about invasive plants and about the Weed Management Area through the internet. The Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council will work to make outreach materials about invasive plant ecology, control, and source reduction available on the new Los Angeles County Weed Management Area Website.
4. Coordinate these activities, and facilitate communication among WMA members. UCCE will maintain regular contact with LASGRWC, the Cal-IPC Student Chapter, and the Weed Management Area Member agencies about educational and other activities through

regular email and phone conversations, and through providing minutes of WMA meetings.

UCCE-Lead

Dr. Sabrina Drill, Natural Resources Advisor, [sldrill@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sldrill@ucdavis.edu)

Cal-IPC Student Chapter-Lead

Sara Jo Dickens, [calipcsc@gmail.com](mailto:calipcsc@gmail.com)

Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council – Lead

Jason Casanova, [cas@lasgrwc.org](mailto:cas@lasgrwc.org)

**A portion of the outreach project will be accomplished by the student chapter of the California Invasive Plant Council. A detailed outline of the work they will accomplish follows.**



### **Cal-IPC Student Chapter Proposal for Funding**

University of California, Riverside  
2150 Batchelor Hall  
Riverside, CA 92507

Contact: Heather Schneider & Sara Jo Dickens ([calipcsc@gmail.com](mailto:calipcsc@gmail.com))

#### *Summary of proposal*

The mission of the California Invasive Plant Council's Student Chapter (Cal-IPC SC) is to establish a system of communication and collaboration between students and professionals in the field of invasive species science. Members of the student chapter contribute to current research in the field, as well as community education and outreach. The student chapter acts as a proxy between up-and-coming scientists and active members of Cal-IPC.

The chapter was formed in 2007 in order to expand opportunities for students interested in invasive species science, policy, and management. Cal-IPC SC is a nonprofit organization created and managed by current students. Active membership in the Student Chapter involves maintaining active membership with Cal-IPC, participating in Cal-IPC symposia, and facilitating outreach and education opportunities for local communities.

At the current time, Cal-IPC SC is requesting funding to continue the formation and expansion of the chapter. Since its inception at the end of 2007, the Student Chapter has made efforts to create a presentation comprised of display boards, photos, and informational pamphlets to educate the general public about the dangers of gardening with invasive weeds. This presentation has been implemented at several botanic garden plant sales, including the University of California, Riverside Botanic Garden, the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve, and the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Many of the informational handouts are produced by the *Don't Plant a Pest* and *Plant Right* campaigns. In addition to working at plant sales, the Student Chapter also envisions future work with the public via presentations and outreach events, such as a campus weed clean-up work day.

There are also plans to integrate the interests of student members with on-the-ground work being done by land managers and researchers, some of whom are associated with the Los

Angeles Weed Management Area. The Student Chapter will also be involved in the Cal-IPC weed assessment project, Speaker's Bureau, and the annual Cal-IPC Symposium.

The ultimate goal of the Cal-IPC SC is to establish branches throughout the state of California and create a network of students who can interact with the general public and learn from current invasive species specialists, while also providing a resource of time and talent in return. Cal-IPC SC is requesting funding in the amount of \$1000 to achieve these goals and help Cal-IPC SC become a firmly established and functional organization. This money will be used to lay the foundation for the organization, disseminate important information to the public, participate in local management efforts, and allow Cal-IPC SC to evolve and expand over time.

#### *Cal-IPC SC Itemized Goals*

- To establish a network of graduate students throughout California and increase their involvement with Cal-IPC by sharing knowledge and interacting with senior Cal-IPC members.
- To interact with the general public and inform them about the environmental hazards of invasive species and weed plants in both horticultural and wildland situations.
- To educate Cal-IPC SC members on horticultural techniques, fire-safe landscaping, weed removal techniques, and current invasive weed management efforts within California.
- To establish a viable network of students, scientists, managers, and other professionals in order to foster a system of functional communication and collaboration.

#### **Mapping:**

All areas treated and surveyed will be displayed on a map that will be submitted to all WMA partners and CDFA at the completion of the project.

#### **Reporting:**

A project report will be submitted at the completion of the contract and will include the following information: net acres or number of plants treated if less than 100 plants, gross area surveyed, control tool utilized, % change (reduction) between visits, graphs showing differences in acres treated between years for each species addressed, and photographs.